

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A processing unit connectable to a data communications network, said processing unit comprising:

a memory unit operable to store a first network address for use in communicating via said network; and

a data carrier reader operable to read a second network address from a hand insertable data carrier, wherein said processing unit is operable to use said second network address from said data carrier for communicating via said data communications network;

wherein said processing unit is operable to determine whether said data carrier is present in said reader, and wherein said processing unit is also operable to use said second network address from said data carrier if the data carrier is present in said reader and otherwise to use said first network address.

32. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said processing unit is operable to use said second network address from said data carrier only when said second network address is present in said carrier reader.

33. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, further comprising a read/writeable register, wherein said processing unit is operable to write said second network address read from said data carrier by said data carrier reader into said register and to use said second network address read from said register for communicating via said network.

34. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 33, further comprising a register flag operatively associated with said read/writeable register, wherein said processing unit is operable to set said flag once said second network address has been read from said data carrier, and

wherein said processing unit is operable to interrogate said flag and to use said second network address for communicating via said network if said flag is set.

35. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 34, wherein if said flag is not set said processing unit is operable to determine whether said data carrier is present in the reader, if said data carrier is present in the reader said second network address is read from said data carrier and said flag is set, and if said data carrier is not present in the reader said processing unit is operable to read said first network address from said memory unit for use in communicating via said network.

36. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said data carrier is a Smart card and said data carrier reader is a smart card reader.

37. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said data carrier is a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card and said data carrier reader is a SIM card reader.

38. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, further comprising a motherboard on which one or more processors are mounted, wherein said data card reader is mounted on said motherboard.

39. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said processing unit is connectable to first and second networks, wherein the second network address read from said data carrier comprises two addresses, a first of said two addresses being used to communicate via said first network, and a second of said two addresses being used to communicate via said second network.

40. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said processing unit is replaceably mountable in a chassis arranged to receive said processing unit.

41. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein said data carrier reader includes a securing mechanism to hinder removal of said data carrier when present in said reader.
42. (New) A processing unit as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the data carrier includes a recordable medium and the second network address is recorded on the recordable medium.
43. (New) A computer system comprising:
a communications network for providing data communications to devices connected to said network; and
a processing unit including:
a memory unit operable to store a first network address for use in communicating via said network, and
a data carrier reader operable to read a second network address from a hand insertable data carrier, wherein said processing unit is operable to use said second network address from said data carrier for communicating via said data communications network;
wherein said processing unit is operable to determine whether said data carrier is present in said reader, and wherein said processing unit is also operable to use said second network address from said data carrier if the data carrier is present in said reader and otherwise to use said first network address.
44. (New) A computer system as claimed in Claim 43, comprising a computer including a chassis in which said processing unit is replaceably mountable.
45. (New) A method of operating a computer system comprising:
connecting a processing unit to a communications network, said processing unit including a memory unit and a data carrier reader, wherein the memory unit is operable to store a first network address for use in communicating via said network;

said processing unit determining whether a hand insertable data carrier is present in said reader, wherein said data carrier having recorded thereon a second network address for use in communicating via said network; and

said processing unit using said second network address from said data carrier if the data carrier is present in said reader and otherwise using said first network address.

46. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 45, further comprising:

if said data carrier is present in said reader, said data carrier reader reading said second network address from said data carrier, and

said processing unit writing said second network address read from said data carrier by said data carrier reader into a read/writeable register and using said second network address read from said register for communicating via said network.

47. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 46, further comprising:

said processing unit setting a register flag operatively associated with said read/writeable register once said second network address has been read from said data carrier, and

said processing unit interrogating said flag and using said second network address for communicating via said network if said flag is set.

48. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 47, further comprising:

if said flag is not set said processing unit determining whether said data carrier is present in the reader, if said data carrier is present in the reader reading said second network address from said data carrier and setting said flag, and if said data carrier is not present in the reader said processing unit reading said first network address from said memory unit for use in communicating via said network.

49. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 45, wherein said processing unit is replaceable, and said connecting a processing unit to a communications network comprises:

disconnecting a first processing unit from said communications network, and

connecting a second replacement processing unit to said communications network in place of said first processing unit.

50. (New) A device for use in a computer system, said device being connectable to a data communications network, said device comprising:

a memory unit operable to store a first network address for use in communicating via said network; and

a data carrier reader operable to read a second network address from a hand insertable data carrier, wherein said processing unit is operable to use said second network address from said data carrier for communicating via said data communications network;

wherein said processing unit is operable to determine whether said data carrier is present in said reader, and wherein said processing unit is also operable to use said second network address from said data carrier if the data carrier is present in said reader and otherwise to use said first network address.

51. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 50, wherein said device is operable to use said second network address from said data carrier only when said second network address is present in said carrier reader.

52. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 50, further comprising a read/writeable register, wherein said processing unit is operable to write said second network address read from said data carrier by said data carrier reader into said register and to use said second network address read from said register for communicating via said network.

53. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 52, further comprising a register flag operatively associated with said read/writeable register, wherein said processing unit is operable to set said flag once said second network address has been read from said data carrier, and wherein said processing unit is operable to interrogate said flag and to use said second network address for communicating via said network if said flag is set.

54. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 53, wherein if said flag is not set said processing unit is operable to determine whether said data carrier is present in the reader, if said data carrier is present in the reader said second network address is read from said data carrier and said flag is set, and if said data carrier is not present in the reader said processing unit is operable to read said first network address from said memory unit for use in communicating via said network.

55. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 50, wherein said data carrier is a Smart card or the like and said data carrier reader is a Smart card reader.

56. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 50, wherein said data carrier is a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card or the like and said data carrier reader is a SIM card reader.